GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1501
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011
EU BAN ON AYURVEDIC AND HERBAL DRUGS
Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union (EU) has issued directions to ban the sale of ayurvedic and herbal drugs across Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith action taken/proposed thereon;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the likely impact of the ban on ayurvedic and other traditional medicinal products manufacturers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a): No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): India has been doing bilateral consultation with the European Union on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive since 2004 and raised its concerns on this issue in the TBT Committee of the WTO.

(d): Yes.

(e); Many Ayurvedic products are currently sole as dietary supplements. As of now there is no registration requirement for dietary supplements. However, some countries require notification of such products. Many products have been notified in different countries (Italy, Belgium, Finland and others) by some Indian companies. When sold as dietary supplements these products cannot and do not make any medicinal claims. Such Ayurvedic products, which are currently being sold as dietary supplements would not be impacted by the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive.